

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DPW-01 IO-13 AID-20 RSR-01 /118 W

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R 201050Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5837

INFO CINCPAC

USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12964

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, PINS

SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON U.S. PRESENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN AUGUST 20 BANGKOK POST  
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS." BEGIN TEXT:

IF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND  
THAILAND REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS  
SEEMS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS THE REASONS FOR SUCH  
AMBIGUITY ARE WELL FORMED. THE SECURITY OF INDOCHINA  
DEMANDS THAT CERTAIN FACTS AND FIGURES REMAIN SECRET  
(AS SECRET AS ANYTHING CAN BE IN ASIA), AND THE  
SECURITY OF THAILAND DEMANDS THAT AMERICA'S WITHDRAWAL  
REMAIN FLEXIBLE AND SENSITIVE TO THE FACTS OF THE TIME.

SO VAGUENESS ITSELF IS NO CONDEMNATION OF THIS  
NEWEST PROCLAMATION BY PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN  
REGARDING THE BASES. BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO ASK A  
MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION: ARE THE AMERICANS ACTUALLY  
PREPARED TO STAY IN THAILAND LONG ENOUGH TO HELP PROTECT  
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THIS COUNTRY?

SUCH A QUESTION IS HARDLY POPULAR. IT IS EASIER  
TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH,  
THAT PROBLEMS REGARDING THE ECONOMY AND NATIONAL  
SOVEREIGNTY HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED BY THEIR PRESENCE.  
BUT POPULAR OR NOT, THE FACT OF THE MATTER, THE  
REALPOLITIK OF THE MATTER IS THAT THAILAND NEEDS UNITED  
STATES FORCES, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, FOR OUR OWN SECURITY.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE LOVE AMERICA, THAT THAT  
WE LOVE OR EVEN APPROVE OF AMERICAN POLICY. IN MAY  
WAYS, THAILAND AS A SOVEREIGN STATE FIND UNITED STATES  
POLICY NEBULOUS AND SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN TOWARDS ITS  
STAUNCH ALLIES.

BUT WITHIN THE REALM OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS,  
WE HAVE CLOSELY SIDED WITH THE UNITED STATES SINCE  
1963. WE HAVE GIVEN OUR BASES FOR AMERICA TO BOMB  
COMMUNIST FORCES IN INDOCHINA. WE HAVE USED BANGKOK  
AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY HEADQUARTERS  
FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE HAVE USED OUR JUNGLES FOR EXPERIMENTAL  
RESEARCH, AND WE HAVE USED OUR CAPITAL AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR  
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN TREATY ORGANIZATION--AN ORGANIZATION WHICH  
HAS NEVER BEEN CALLED TO FIGHT A WAR AND WHICH HAS BECOME  
ALMOST MORIBUND.

WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE SACRIFICED FOR THE UNITED  
STATES--GRANTED WITH A SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF PROFIT FOR  
THAILAND ECONOMICALLY--WE WILL DEMAND A CERTAIN RIGHT TO  
REQUEST OUR AMERICAN ALLIES TO UNDERSTAND OUR NEEDS IN  
RELATION TO OUR SOMETIMES HOSTILE NEIGHBOURS.

IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE UNITED STATES WISHES  
TO WITHDRAW FROM THEIR BATTLE IN INDOCHINA. AND IT IS  
UNDERSTANDABLE THAT CERTAIN PROTECTIONIST ELEMENTS  
IN CONGRESS WOULD WISH TO WITHDRAW TO "FORTRESS AMERICA."  
BUT WE ARE NOT INDOCHINA. WE HAVE SIDED WITH THE UNITED  
STATES AND WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO BE ABANDONED BY THE  
UNITED STATES DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD.

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THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW TROOPS,  
EQUIPMENT, BUSINESS OR EVEN ITS EMBASSY IF IT SO WISHES.  
BUT TO ABANDON THE ONE COUNTRY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHICH  
HAS HELPED THEM WOULD BE A FOOLISH, AMORAL AND TRAGIC  
THING TO DO. END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, SECURITY, TROOP CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS  
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**Draft Date:** 20 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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